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ROCKFORD RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE "CRACK" COCAINE

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration; RICHARD A. MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; and STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **ANDREW A. CHAVIS**, 27 (DOB: 12/09/76), formerly of 718 6th Avenue, Rockford, to 35 years in federal prison without parole for his role in a conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base, also known as "crack" cocaine, and possessing with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine.

Chavis was convicted on March 19, 2004, following a four-day federal jury trial. Evidence presented at trial established that Chavis conspired with his co-defendants, **ALEX C. THOMPSON**, 43 (DOB: 05/01/61), formerly of 320 Sawyer Road, Rockford, and **FRANK J. JEFFERSON, JR.**, 35 (DOB: 01/01/69), formerly of 813 ½ Fitch Road, Rockford, to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine between November 15, 2002 and November 22, 2002. Evidence also established that on November 22, 2002, Thompson ordered two ounces (approximately 56 grams) of crack cocaine from Jefferson. Testimony further established that Jefferson then arranged to meet Chavis, his drug supplier, in the parking lot of a Rockford liquor store, in order to obtain crack cocaine to provide to Thompson. Jefferson then met with Chavis in the parking lot of that liquor store, where Chavis provided him with the crack cocaine.

Thompson and Jefferson previously pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine in Rockford between November 15, 2002 and November 22, 2002. Thompson was sentenced on December 4, 2003, to 174 months in prison without parole, a \$400 fine, and five years of supervised release following his release from prison. Jefferson was sentenced on April 9, 2004, to 144 months in prison without parole, a \$200 fine, and ten years of supervised release following his release from prison.

In addition to 35 years in prison, the court ordered Chavis to serve 10 years of supervised release following his release from prison, and to pay a fine of \$500.

The case was investigated by the Rockford offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Rockford-Winnebago County Metro Narcotics Unit. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael F. Iasparro and Scott A. Verseman.

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